

Amendments to the claims:

Cancel claims 1-34.

Add new claims 35-49.

1-34. (Canceled)

35. (New) A magnetic write head assembly which has a head surface and a track width at the head surface wherein the head surface forms a first vertical plane comprising:

first and second pole pieces;

a write gap located between the first and second pole pieces;

the second pole piece having first and second components wherein the first component is located between the write gap and the second component and each of the first and second components has a height into the head which extends from and which is oriented perpendicular to said head surface;

the first component having a uniform thickness throughout its height into the head with the height into the head forming a zero throat (ZTH) which lies in a second vertical plane that is parallel to said first vertical plane;

the height into the head of the second component being greater than the height into the head of the first component; and

each of the first and second components having said track width at the head surface.

36. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 35 wherein the ZTH is less than a vertically oriented thickness of the first pole piece and said thickness of the first component is less than a uniform thickness of the second component.

37. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 36 further comprising:
the second pole piece having a third component which is recessed from the head surface and is stitched to the second component.

38. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 35 further comprising:
the first pole piece having horizontally extending pole tip, back gap and yoke portions with the yoke portion being located between the pole tip and back gap portions and with the pole tip portion forming a portion of the head surface;
the write gap forming a first horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction perpendicular to the head surface;
the first component interfacing the write gap at said first horizontal plane;
the first component and an insulation layer forming a second horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction that is perpendicular to the head surface;
and
the second component interfacing the first component and the insulation layer at said second horizontal plane.

39. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 38 wherein the ZTH is less than a vertically oriented thickness of the first pole piece and said thickness of the first component is less than a uniform thickness of the second component.

40. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 39 further comprising:
the second pole piece having a third component which is recessed from the head surface and is stitched to the second component.

41. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 35 wherein the second component is a flat layer on the pole tip, yoke and back gap portions and is magnetically connected to the back gap portion of the first pole piece layer.

42. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 41 wherein the ZTH is less than a vertically oriented thickness of the first pole piece and said thickness of the first component is less than a uniform thickness of the second component.

43. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 42 further comprising:
the first pole piece having horizontally extending pole tip, back gap and yoke portions with the yoke portion being located between the pole tip and back gap portions and with the pole tip portion forming a portion of the head surface;
the write gap forming a first horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction perpendicular to the head surface;
the first component interfacing the write gap at said first horizontal plane;
the first component and an insulation layer forming a second horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction that is perpendicular to the head surface;
and
the second component interfacing the first component and the insulation layer at said second horizontal plane.

44. (New) A magnetic write assembly as claimed in claim 35 further comprising:
a read head with the write head being located on the read head;
the read head including:
ferromagnetic first and second shield layers; and
a read sensor located between the first and second shield layers.

45. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 44 wherein the ZTH is less than a vertically oriented thickness of the first pole piece and said thickness of the first component is less than a uniform thickness of the second component.

46. (New) A magnetic write head assembly as claimed in claim 45 further comprising:
the first pole piece having horizontally extending pole tip, back gap and yoke portions with the yoke portion being located between the pole tip and back gap portions and with the pole tip portion forming a portion of the head surface;
the write gap forming a first horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction perpendicular to the head surface;
the first component interfacing the write gap at said first horizontal plane;

the first component and an insulation layer forming a second horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction that is perpendicular to the head surface; and

the second component interfacing the first component and the insulation layer at said second horizontal plane.

47. (New) A magnetic disk drive comprising:
- at least one magnetic head assembly;
 - the magnetic head assembly having a write head and a read head with the write head being located on the read head;
 - the read head including:
 - ferromagnetic first and second shield layers;
 - a read sensor located between the first and second shield layers;
 - the write head having a head surface and a track width at the head surface with the head surface forming a first vertical plane;
 - the write head comprising:
 - first and second pole pieces;
 - a write gap located between the first and second pole pieces;
 - the second pole piece having first and second components wherein the first component is located between the write gap and the second component and each of the first and second components has a height into the head which extends from and which is oriented perpendicular to said head surface;
 - the first component having a uniform thickness throughout its height into the head with the height into the head forming a zero throat (ZTH) which lies in a second vertical plane that is parallel to said first vertical plane;
 - the height into the head of the second component being greater than the height into the head of the first component; and
 - each of the first and second components having said track width at the head surface;
 - a housing;
 - a magnetic medium supported in the housing;

a support mounted in the housing for supporting the magnetic head assembly with said head surface facing the magnetic medium so that the magnetic head assembly is in a transducing relationship with the magnetic medium;

a motor for moving the magnetic medium; and

a processor connected to the magnetic head assembly and to the motor for exchanging signals with the magnetic head assembly and for controlling movement of the magnetic medium.

48. (New) A magnetic disk drive as claimed in claim 47 wherein the ZTH is less than a vertically oriented thickness of the first pole piece and said thickness of the first component is less than a uniform thickness of the second component.

49. (New) A magnetic disk drive as claimed in claim 48 further comprising:

the first pole piece having horizontally extending pole tip, back gap and yoke portions with the yoke portion being located between the pole tip and back gap portions and with the pole tip portion forming a portion of the head surface;

the write gap forming a first horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction perpendicular to the head surface;

the first component interfacing the write gap at said first horizontal plane;

the first component and an insulation layer forming a second horizontal plane that extends between the head surface and the back gap in a direction that is perpendicular to the head surface; and

the second component interfacing the first component and the insulation layer at said second horizontal plane.